

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Eric Newland, Area Management Biologist
Breena Apgar-Kurtz, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Lower Yukon Area Office
P.O. Box 127
Emmonak, AK 99581
Phone: (907) 949-1320
Fax: (907) 949-1830
Subsistence Fishing Schedule:
(866) 479-7387 (toll free), or
in Fairbanks, call (907) 459-7387

U.S. Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Subsistence Board
Geoffrey L. Haskett, Regional Director
Kathleen O'Reilly-Doyle, Acting
Asst. Regional Director Subsistence
Fred Bue, Yukon Area Inseason Manager
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office
101 12th Avenue, Rm 110
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 455-1849 or 1-800-267-3997
Fax (907) 455-1853

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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #68

Summer Announcement #63, District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 114,000 Chinook salmon through July 14 is well below the historical average of 142,000 for this date. Based on the assessment information to date, the current projection is for a total run size slightly better than the poor run of 2012.

The 2013 Chinook salmon run is coming to an end in the middle river. Subsistence fishing restrictions and schedules are being relaxed in District 4, beginning in Subdistrict 4-A.

Subdistrict 4-A (from $\frac{3}{4}$ miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Cone Point, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik and Grayling Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-A is currently closed. Effective, 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, Subdistrict 4-A will return to the regular subsistence salmon fishing schedule which consists of two 48-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays and from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less and Chinook salmon may be kept when caught in fish wheels.

Fishermen are reminded that effective 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 15, the use of drift gillnets is prohibited in Subdistrict 4-A.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (from Cone Point to Illinois Creek, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Galena and Ruby):

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C is currently closed. The 48-hour subsistence salmon fishing period scheduled to begin 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, will be reduced to a 24-hour subsistence salmon fishing period.

Subsistence salmon fishing will be open from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 18. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and fish wheels must be equipped with a chute or a live box. Fish wheels must be closely attended while in operation and all Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels must be returned to the water alive.

Effective, 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 21, Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C will return to the regular subsistence salmon fishing schedule which consists of two 48-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays, and from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less and Chinook salmon may be kept when caught in fish wheels.

The department will notify fishermen by July 20 concerning the subsistence salmon fishing schedule in District 4.

Koyukuk River: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 or in Fairbanks call (907) 459-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Fairbanks at 459-7274 or in Emmonak at 949-1320. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be contacted in Fairbanks at 456-0418.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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